

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: John R. Liddicoat et al.
Serial No.: 09/888,282
Filing Date: 06/22/01
Title: AUTOMATED ANNULAR PLICATION
FOR MITRAL VALVE REPAIR
Group Art Unit: 3765
Examiner: Shaun R. Hurley
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-6

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please replace the current reference to related applications with the following new reference:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Applications

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/888,282, filed 06/22/01 by John R. Liddicoat et al. for AUTOMATED ANNULAR PLICATION FOR MITRAL VALVE REPAIR (Attorney's Docket No. VIA-6), which in turn claims benefit of prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/213,782, filed 6/23/00 for AUTOMATED ANNULAR PLICATION FOR MITRAL VALVE REPAIR (Attorney's Docket No. VIA-6 PROV). The above-identified patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference. --

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